UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Bryan Dillon,	: :
Plaintiff,	: Civil Action No.:
V.	· :
Collection Technology, Inc.; and	:
DOES 1-10, inclusive,	:
	:
Defendants.	:
	:
	:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Bryan Dillon, says by way of Complaint against Defendant, Collection Technology, Inc., as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
- 2. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims in this action, as all such claims arise out of the same case or controversy as Defendant's violations of the FDCPA pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as Defendant transacts business in the State of New Jersey.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff, Bryan Dillon ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Westwood, New Jersey, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. Defendant Collection Technology, Inc. ("CTI"), is a California business entity with an address of 1200 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 325, Monterey Park, California 91754, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by CTI and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 7. CTI at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to a creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to CTI for collection, or CTI was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. CTI Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. CTI called the plaintiff at his place of employment after the Plaintiff told CTI that he cannot take personal calls there.
 - 13. CTI spoke to the Plaintiff's coworkers and discussed the Debt in detail.
- 14. CTI threatened to garnish the Plaintiff's wages. To date, no such action has occurred.
- 15. CTI sent faxes to a fax machine at the Plaintiff's place of employment without the plaintiff's authorization.
 - 16. CTI stated that they work for the federal government.
- 17. CTI failed to notify the Plaintiff of his rights under state and federal law by written correspondence within five (5) days after initial contact, including the right to dispute the Debt.
- 18. The Plaintiff requested CTI verify the Debt. CTI then continued to call the Plaintiff in attempts to collect the Debt without first verifying the Debt.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.
- 21. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 22. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(1) in that Defendants contacted third parties and failed to identify themselves and further failed to confirm or correct location information.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2) in that Defendants informed third parties of the nature of the Plaintiff's debt and stated that the Plaintiff owed a debt.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3) in that Defendants contacted third parties in regards to the Plaintiff's debt on numerous occasions, without being asked to do so.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.
- 27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at his place of employment, knowing that the Plaintiff's employer prohibited such communications.
- 28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(1) in that Defendants falsely represented to the Plaintiff that it was affiliated with the United States or a government entity.
- 29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(4) in that Defendants threatened the Plaintiff with garnishment if the Debt was not paid.
- 30. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

- 31. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the amount of the Debt.
- 32. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the name of the original creditor to whom the Debt was owed.
- 33. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to dispute the Debt within thirty days.
- 34. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice informing the Plaintiff of a right to have verification and judgment mailed to the Plaintiff.
- 35. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice containing the name and address of the original creditor.
- 36. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) in that Defendants continued collection efforts even though the Debt had not been validated.
- 37. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 38. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

39. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 40. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) ascribes liability for intrusion upon seclusion where one individual, "intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns," and further states that "[said individual] is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."
- 41. New Jersey further recognizes Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy. Thus, the Defendant violated New Jersey state law.
- 42. The Defendants' telephone calls to the Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, "hounding [the Plaintiff]," and "a substantial burden to [his] existence," amounting to an invasion of privacy as defined by the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b).
- 43. The Defendants' conduct of engaging in the foregoing illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy that would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 44. As a result of the intrusions and invasions enumerated above, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages from the Defendants in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 45. All acts of the Defendants and their agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from the Defendants.

<u>VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT – 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.</u>

46. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 47. Without prior consent or outside of an established business relationship, the Defendants sent unsolicited faxes to the Plaintiff in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(C).
- 48. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 49. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants' violations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- Actual damages including, but not limited to, the emotional distress the
 Plaintiff has suffered (and continues to suffer) as a result of the intentional,
 reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or
 negligent invasions of privacy pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
 § 1692k(a)(3);
- 4. Statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) & (C);
- 5. Liquidated damages;
- 6. Punitive damages; and
- 7. Such other and further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: September 13, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Jennifer Kurtz

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